

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080806 TOSEC 030095
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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 80806 ACTION LAGOS INFO MONROVIA
DATED MAR 29/

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 080806

TOPEC, TO: AMEMBASSY FROM:MKING, DEPUTY DIR. ACTION

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: N/A

MONROVIA-PASS TO KEN HAYES, PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADVANCE
PARTY

FOR PHIL WISE, C/O PAUL COSTELLO, PRESIDENT CARTER'S
ADVANCE PARTY REVISED PEACE CORPS LIBERIA BRIEFING PAPER.

1. THE PC HAS BEEN IN LIBERIA SINCE 1962. MORE THAN
3,000 VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED THERE. AT PRESENT, 195
VOLUNTEERS WORK IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
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AND AGRICULTURE PROJECTS.

2. THE STAFF IN LIBERIA IS HEADED BY SEYMOUR GREBEN, PC
COUNTRY DIRECTOR. HE HAS BEEN IN THAT POSITION SINCE JAN
1978. DEPUTY DIRECTOR IS JEREMIAH PARSON. THEY ARE ASSI-
STED BY RICHARD AINSWORTH, ASSOC DIR FOR HEALTH, AND
JIM STEVENSON, ASSOC DIR FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND

AGRICULTURE.

3. SEYMOUR GREBEN DESCRIBES PC PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS IN LIBERIA AS FOLLOWS:

A. LIBERIA IS A COUNTRY BESET WITH POVERTY. MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF THE RURAL POPULATION HAVE A PER CAPITA INCOME OF LESS THAN DOLS. 125. THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE IS 140 PER 1,000. LESS THAN ONE HALF OF THE CHILDREN ENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. IN RURAL AREAS, OF THOSE WHO DO ENTER SCHOOL, ONLY ONE-THIRD REMAIN BY FOURTH GRADE. THE NATION'S LITERACY RATE IS NINE PERCENT

B. THE PC'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM IN LIBERIA (APPROXIMATELY 55 VOLUNTEERS) IS BASED IN THE QUOTE BUSH UNQUOTE--THE MOST RURAL AREAS. VOLUNTEERS OFFER BASIC PREVENTIVE SERVICES, WORKING OUT OF RURAL CLINICS, BUT TRAVELING REGULARLY INTO THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND HAMLETS. NOT ONLY DO THEY TRAIN CO-WORKERS, AND PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF PREVENTIVE SERVICES, BUT THEIR JOBS ARE NOW EXPANDED TO INCLUDE REGULAR HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS IN EVENING LITERACY TRAINING FOR ADULTS. THESE VOLUNTEERS HAVE ALSO HELPED INITIATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RURAL HEALTH CENTER BY ORGANIZING COMMUNITIES TO RAISE LOCAL FUNDS TO MATCH SELF-HELP GRANTS.
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C. LIBERIA, ALTHOUGH LARGELY A NATION OF SUBSISTENCE FARMERS, IMPORTS 20 PERCENT OF ITS RICE. A LARGE PART OF ITS RURAL POPULATION EARNS NO CASH REVENUES FROM PRODUCTION. TO HELP ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM TWO TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS BEGIN TRAINING IN JULY. NINE VOLUNTEERS WILL SET UP CONSTRUCTION TEAMS TO BUILD DESPERATELY NEEDED FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS, TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO EXPAND PRODUCTION WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY CAN MOVE THEIR PRODUCE TO MARKETS. SIX FARM PRODUCTION VOLUNTEERS WILL WORK WITH LIBERIAN EXTENSION WORKERS TO PROVIDE SUBSISTENCE FARMERS WITH THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO EXPAND PRODUCTION. THIS WILL INCLUDE SPECIAL DRY AND RAINY SEASON VEGETABLES, INTRODUCTION AND EXPANSION OF TREE CROPS, DEVELOPMENT OF LOWLAND RICE PADDY TECHNIQUES AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (PIGS, GOATS, CHICKENS).

4. NEW ATTENTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE REFLECTS THE PC QUOTE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRATEGY UNQUOTE AND LIBERIA'S DESIRE TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS. COOPER UNQTE COOPER

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